

Enters New Project Information into the Master Database

Activates the Upload/Download Menu

Selects the New Project just created

Selects the Send Button

5                    This Creates a unique project folder on the Dial Up Server with the following naming convention: Project # + Contract #. This populates this folder with a database file containing only that projects information. The project is ready for the inspector to Hot Sync to his Laptop

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10                   Steps done by the Inspector:

                      Activate the Dial-Up Network Connection to the Fire Wall Server

                      Activates the Upload/Download Menu

                      Select the New Project from a pull down list

                      Select the Receive Button to hot sync the laptop computer

15                   This downloads the project specific database created by the estimator. The inspector creates is Daily Field Journal for that day

                      Activates the Upload/Download Menu

                      Select the Project from a pull down list and the day or range of days for the field journals to upload

20                   Select the Send Button

                      This uploads only the information that change for that day or range of days selected to the Dial-Up Server

                      This completes the hot sync process by the inspector

Steps done by the Estimator/DB Administrator

The Estimator now updates the master database with the current project  
5 information

Activates the Upload/Download Menu

Selects a Project or Multiple Projects for that day or range of days to update  
the master database

Selects the Receive Button to hot sync the master database

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Once the daily project folders have been updated, an administrator of the database  
takes each project and uploads the folders to the master database that includes information for  
all the projects. Once data has been collected, a variety of reports can be generated, including  
15 a periodic report such as a monthly report, a progress report, a payment report, an estimate  
report relating to various aspects of contractor payments. Thus, project managers and  
administrators can have timely access to information for all projects. Old projects are moved  
to an archive projects database, which stores static data that is not actively accessed. Data  
stored in the archive can be imported back into the database for review if needed.

20 Fig. 5 shows a planning/design/construction process. First, a new project is started  
(step 402). Next, various user privileges are assigned (step 404) and planning data is entered  
(step 406) into a planning projects database 408. The information stored in the project  
database can be used to generate a capital improvement plan (step 410) and can be

exported into a web-accessible format (step 412) and placed on a project-specific web site (step 414).

Additionally, the information stored on the planning project database can be exported (step 420) as a project information to a design projects database 426. The design projects database can receive contract information (step 422) as well as design information (step 424). The design project database can generate a design status report (step 428) which can be exported to the web format (step 412) for placement on the project specific website (step 414). Additionally, information from the design project database can be provided to a schedule data interface (step 430) that provides output compatible to one or more project schedulers such as Microsoft Project, among others (step 432). Further, the output from the design project database can be provided to a bid package information module (step 434), which in turn can be used in a spreadsheet for contractors to submit cost values on the contract bid items (step 436). This data can be imported (step 438) and analyzed (step 440) and provided to a winning bid export file (step 442). The winning bid output can then be provided to a master construction projects database 450. The master construction projects database can also directly receive project information from the design projects database (step 448).

The master construction projects database 450 can receive contract data (step 452), project data (step 454), and can also send and receive information (step 456) from a daily activity database 460. The daily activity database 460 handles field project information (step 462) as well as daily field journal information (step 464). The output of the master construction database 450 can also be archived as an archive project information module (step 47-) in a closed projects database 480.